

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a violation of its obligation to use the airwaves for the public interest.

It is improper for the corporation to characterize this one-sided, attack program as "news," and refuse to air a second program taking an opposing view on the subject of Senator Kerry's military service, such as the readily available documentary, "Going Up River."

Sinclair's coercion of its local affiliates is also a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. When large companies control the airwaves, we get uniformity of programming, and more of what's good for their bottom line rather than what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Please act to strengthen the license renewal process, so it involves a real review of broadcasters' use of the airwaves rather than just the return of a postcard. Thank you.